

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 969

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ronald Lee Ermey,
acclaimed actor and voice actor.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ronald Lee Ermey; and

WHEREAS, R. Lee Ermey, as he was known, was a man of exceptional talent, highly regarded for his military service and his abilities as an actor and voice actor, a beloved staple of modern American culture whose many contributions will echo through the ages; and

WHEREAS, born in Emporia, Kansas, on March 24, 1944, Mr. Ermey grew up with five brothers on a farm outside of Kansas City, Kansas; when he was fourteen, he moved with his family to Zillah, Washington; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, at the age of seventeen, R. Lee Ermey enlisted in the United States Marine Corps; for the first few years, he served in the aviation support field before becoming a drill instructor in India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, where he was assigned from 1965 to 1967; and

WHEREAS, he then served in Marine Wing Support Group 17 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan; in 1968, he was ordered to Vietnam with MWSG-17 and spent fourteen months there; the remainder of his service was on Okinawa, where he was advanced to staff sergeant (E-6). He was medically discharged in 1972 because of several injuries incurred during his service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ermey was retroactively awarded the Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon for his serve as a Marine Corps recruit training instructor; his military awards include the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal with two bronze stars, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one silver star, South Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation, South Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm,

South Vietnamese Campaign Medal With 1960-Device, Rifle Marksman Badge, and Pistol Sharpshooter Badge; and

WHEREAS, R. Lee Ermey's career in film and television began in 1978, when he starred in *The Boys in Company C* as Staff Sergeant Loyce; he would go on to be ubiquitous in such roles, playing the authority figure as both an actor and a voice actor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ermey's film and television credits include *Apocalypse Now*, *Miami Vice*, *The X-Files*, *The Simpsons*, the *Toy Story* animated films, *Starship Troopers*, *Saving Silverman*, *Family Guy*, *Scrubs*, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *House*, *X-Men: The Last Stand*, *SpongeBob SquarePants*, and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*; and

WHEREAS, he is best known for playing the role of Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket*; initially, he was intended to be only the technical advisor; however, Mr. Kubrick changed his mind after Mr. Ermey put together an instructional tape, in which he went on an extended tirade toward several extras, convincing the director that he was the right man for the role; and

WHEREAS, seeking authenticity for the film, Stanley Kubrick allowed R. Lee Ermey to write or edit his own dialogue and improvise on set, a notable rarity in a Kubrick film; the director later indicated that Mr. Ermey was an excellent performer, needing only two or three takes per scene. Mr. Ermey's performance in *Full Metal Jacket* was critically acclaimed and earned him a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, R. Lee Ermey enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Nila, whom he married in 1975, and was the proud parent of four children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ermey leaves behind an indelible legacy of hard work and devotion as well as an oeuvre that will be enjoyed by generations to come; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ronald Lee Ermey, reflecting fondly upon his

valiant, selfless service as a member of the United States Marine Corps and his many contributions to American film and television as an actor and voice actor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Erney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.